

ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY

57TH ANNUAL CLINICAL CONGRESS OF
THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1971

*Scudder orator:***Altemeier to discuss
infection in trauma**

W. A. Altemeier, Cincinnati, will deliver the annual Scudder Oration on Trauma this afternoon at 1:30 in the Ballroom of the Shelburne Hotel.



DR. ALTEMEIER

Dr. Altemeier, a member of the Center for the Comprehensive Study of Trauma at the University of Cincinnati, will speak on the Significance of Infection in Trauma.

The Scudder Oration is named in honor of the first chairman of the College's Committee on Fractures, predecessor of the Committee on Trauma. Dr. Scudder was appointed chairman in 1922.

Curtis Artz, M.D., FACS, Charleston, N. C., chairman of the ACS Committee on Trauma, will introduce Dr. Altemeier, and will preside during the session.

**Panel explains the
7 salient causes of
malpractice dilemma**

The customs and actions of the legal profession were singled out as one of the seven fundamental causes of the present malpractice dilemma during a panel discussion on Professional Liability held yesterday morning in the Ballroom of Convention Hall.

Eliot Snow, M.D., FACS, Salt Lake City, who moderated the panel, stated in his opening remarks that in his opinion, the contingency fee is one of the greatest stimulations to malpractice litigation. "Not only does the lawyer have a direct personal and financial interest in the settlement," Dr. Snow said, "but often his interest conflicts with the interest of clients." He pointed out that of \$3.2 billion paid out in all personal injury claims in 1967, the last year for which figures are available, the contingency fee in all personal injury cases averages 36 percent, so that

the attorneys collected nearly \$1.2 billion.

Furthermore, Snow stated, since the attorney's percentage usually comes off the top of the award prior to the settlement costs of the legal action, the attorney frequently gets a great deal more than the plaintiff.

Another law-induced problem is the application of the doctrine of "Res Ipsa Loquitur" (the facts speak for themselves) to malpractice suits. Without medical testimony the plaintiff's case automatically fails. By using the Res Ipsa Loquitur doctrine, the plaintiff can compel the defendant to testify as a witness against himself.

Dr. Snow listed the other causes as the breakdown in doctor-patient relationships; changes in the health care system which lead to more impersonal care; public sophistication, and increase in the use of more assistants and para-medical personnel.

He also cited the busy doctor syndrome, and the rash of medical and hospital television shows which deal with malpractice suits.

Finally, Dr. Snow stated, there are the more traditional causes such as catastrophic results through errors in judgement on the doctor's part, failure of communication between the doctor and the patient, lack of informed consent, abandonment of the patient, and the lack of rapport between the patient and his physician.

Moving to the area of solutions, he said that malpractice suits fall into three main categories. First, legitimate claims where it is perfectly obvious to anyone that the patient was injured by what the physician did or did not do. The second group consists of completely unwarranted claims and accusations,

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This photo was taken late Sunday afternoon, about 16 hours before the scientific and industrial exhibits were to open. With only one exception that we know of, see page 2, things fell into place well before 8:30 a.m. Monday morning.



BERRY:***What price adaptation to man's space travels?***

The heart problem astronaut Jim Irwin encountered during last summer's Apollo 15 mission apparently was caused by his body's struggle to adapt to two hostile environments in a row, space physician Charles A. Berry reported yesterday while delivering the AUA lecture.

Berry, director of life sciences for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, disclosed that post flight tests showed that Irwin and fellow Astronaut Dave Scott had lost 15 percent of the potassium usually present in their body fluids.

A potassium loss of this size could account for the abnormal beating of the heart—a condition known as cardiac arrhythmia—suffered by Irwin on the voyage back from the moon. At various times both Irwin and Scott also experienced premature heart contractions normally encountered by athletes under stress.

The third Apollo 15 astronaut—Al Wordan, who remained in lunar orbit when his two buddies landed on the moon—lost only 10 percent of his potassium and encountered no heart abnormalities, Berry stated.

He said that all three astronauts apparently had adjusted to the challenges of weightlessness during the trip to the moon without serious effects. Then, he continued, Scott and Irwin apparently encountered further potassium loss during their three hectic moonwalks.

It was not, however, until the trio

were earthbound that Irwin's heart acted up. They had just gone through a tense and tiring problem concerning the undocking and discarding of the lunar module when Irwin's heart suddenly increased in its beat, then dropped below normal. The abnormal rhythm lasted for about a minute.

"Surely it was cause for concern," said Berry. "It was evidence of an irritable myocardium."

Berry also reported that the astronauts lost weight—Scott, two and three-quarter pounds; Irwin five pounds and Worden three—and showed drops in body fluids.

Additionally, Irwin experienced a giddy feeling which bordered on nausea during the trip to the moon. It disappeared when he landed on the lunar surface, then, after splashdown, returned for about five days. All three astronauts quickly overcame all ill effects of the trip.

The changes, he declared, simply were man adapting to the challenges of weightlessness, then to the one-sixth gravity of the moon, then to the earth's normal gravity.

"The question is," he asked, "what is the price of that adaptation?"

Regents OK charters for two new chapters

The Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons, at its meeting Saturday, October 16, granted charters to two additional ACS Chapters—San Diego-Imperial County, (Calif.) and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The total number of College Chapters has now reached 79, of which 64 are in the United States, three in Canada and 12 in other countries.

One of the scores of press conferences held during the Congress to give science writers and reporters background material, this one was held Sunday to explain SESAP, the College's new Surgical Education and Self Assessment Program. Participating in the conference (l to r) are Drs. C. Rollins Hanlon, director of the College, James V. Maloney, Jr., chairman of the ACS Committee on Continuing Education, J. Hartwell Harrison, William S. Blakemore and Harold Zintel.

**Better late than never**

Because today's aircraft "are not large enough" to accept a package 60 inches wide, and because the shortest distance between Toronto and Atlantic City is via Montreal, New York, Philadelphia and several phone calls to Evansville, Indiana, one of the scientific exhibits located in Convention Hall was incomplete until late yesterday. Dr. Mervyn Deitel, St. Joseph's Hospital and University of Toronto, who spent a hectic weekend tracing missing pieces of his exhibit in Booth S-905, cordially invites all to stop by and view the complete exhibit, Chronic and Recurring Gastric Torsions.

When last seen, Dr. Deitel was observed carefully piecing together the complete exhibit, viewboxes necessary to illustrate the concepts had been the missing link, and humming a few bars from Gilbert and Sullivan: "Oh, don't the days seem dull and long when all goes right and nothing goes wrong, and isn't your life completely flat when you've nothing whatever to grumble at."

Science writers to hear Egdahl

Approximately 50 science writers who are members of the National Association of Science Writers, will hear Dr. Richard H. Egdahl, professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery at Boston University Medical Center, at a special NASW luncheon at noon today in the Ozone Room of the Dennis Hotel.

The NASW members, who traditionally meet during the Clinical Congress, make up part of a larger group of nearly 100 writers and reporters who are covering this year's Congress.

Registration facts

As of 5:00 p.m. Monday

Doctors	6,381
Ladies	1,835
Industrial exhibitors	1,771
Visitors	131
Press and staff	239

Total

10,357

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Gordon L. Briggs

Cine Clinic will feature Central America film

Eighteen teaching films will be premiered at the Cine Clinic sessions beginning today and continuing tomorrow and Thursday mornings in the Ballroom of Convention Hall.

Authors of the films were selected in their areas of expertise by the ACS Committee on Medical Motion Pictures, and will be present during the presentations to discuss their films.

The first film produced in Latin America for the Cine Clinic program will be presented today by Dr. Eduardo Echeverria of Mexico City. His subject is *Transthoracic Esophago-Gastro-Anastomosis*.

Howard University will be added to the list of schools which have made contributions to this program when Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., of Washington, D. C., presents his film today on *Resection of the Parotid Gland*.

Other films on today's schedule are: *Carcinoid Islet Cell Tumors of the Duodenum*, Paul H. Jordan, Jr., Houston, surgeon; *Treatment of Ventricular Septal Defect in Infancy by Pulmonary Artery Construction*, Vallee L. Willman, St. Louis, surgeon.

Also, *Cardiac Arrest*, Bruce C. Paton, Denver, surgeon; and *Operations for the Complications of Crohn's Disease*, George E. Block, Chicago, surgeon.

Today's motion pictures

A session in Obstetrics-Gynecology, a Trauma special, the Symposium on Spectacular Problems in Surgery and a General Session will make up today's portion of the Motion Picture Exhibition. All sessions will be presented in Convention Hall.

Seven films will make up the Obstetrics-Gynecology session, to be held at 9:00 a.m. in Rooms H and J. The Trauma Special will feature six films and will begin at 9:00 a.m. in Room 102. Eleven films have been selected by the ACS Committee on Medical Motion Pictures to make up the Symposium on Spectacular Problems in Surgery, they will be shown this evening at 7:45 p.m. in the Ballroom. The general session, with seven films, will begin at 1:30 this afternoon in Room 102.

Wagner, Plzak, Gartland are today's TV surgeons

Ten surgical procedures will be telecast to viewers in Room 103 at Convention Hall this week, live and in color from the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. Moderators, also in Room 103, will put questions from viewers to the panel members located in Room 4 at Convention Hall. There will be three telecasts today and on Wednesday and two on Thursday and Friday.

These sessions are under the direction of Gordon F. Schwartz, associate professor, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. Dr. Schwartz will also perform a "Radical Mastectomy" at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday.

Today's program starts at 10:00 a.m., with Frederick B. Wagner, Jr., Philadelphia, performing a colon procedure; Frederic P. Herter will moderate.

At 1:45 p.m. Pediatric Cardiac Procedure will be performed by Louis F. Plzak, Jr., Philadelphia. For this telecast Henry T. Bahnson will moderate.

Total Hip Replacement will be the third and final telecast performed today at 3:30 p.m. John J. Gartland, Philadelphia, will perform surgery; Frank E. Stinchfield will moderate.

Monday talk honors 'backwoods surgeon'

Tribute was paid yesterday to Dr. Ephraim McDowell, pioneer in abdominal surgery, who bore the sobriquet, "Backwoods Surgeon," because of hardships he endured on long journeys on horseback to serve his patients.

Dr. McDowell was honored in a paper read during opening ceremonies by Francis M. Massie, of Lexington, Ky., who has been serving as emeritus clinical professor of surgery at the University of Kentucky School of Medicine since 1967.

Dr. Massie's paper will appear in the December 1971 issue of the *BULLETIN of the American College of Surgeons*.

Messages

348-7930, 31, 32, 33

Medical care

(Atlantic City Hospital)

344-2254, ext. 229.

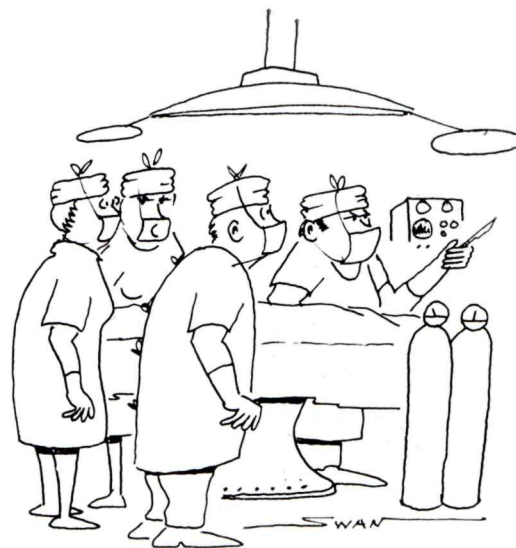
Malpractice

(Continued from Page 1)

such as a claim made by the patient in hope of obtaining easy money because the doctor carries insurance or because the patient has a personal grudge against the doctor. The third group consists of claims where there is serious question, one way or another, whether there has been malpractice.

In the first group, Dr. Snow said, it is the opinion of many that in cases where there have been obvious mistakes made by the physician, an adequate and just financial settlement should be made without allowing the case to reach the stage of legal action. A frank admission of indefensible errors made by the physician and his insurance company would do much to restore the image of the medical profession.

It is with the second and third groups of cases that solutions must be found. It is only in the past few years, since the malpractice problem has become so acute, he said, that the cost of medical malpractice insurance has risen to such proportions that serious thought has been given to resolving the dilemma. He then outlined the principal proposals that have been made and are being tried at the present time, which he classified into four main groups: 1) panels of various types; 2) legislation designed to protect the physician in the honest pursuit of his profession; 3) the use of arbitration to settle disputes, and 4) professional liability committees of county or state medical societies working in close cooperation with the insurance companies.



"Here comes his dagger soliloquy"

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Today's get-togethers

A listing of meetings, reunions, receptions et al, both formal and not-so-formal, which will take place today or early tomorrow.

Executive Committee of American Board of Medical Specialties
9:00-1:00 p.m.
Meeting
Shelburne Hotel — Manor Room

Association of American Medical Book Publishers
10:00-12 noon
Meeting
Convention Hall — Room 12

Society of Head and Neck Surgeons, Executive Council
12 noon-2:00 p.m.
Luncheon
Claridge Hotel — West Room

Surgical Section of the National Medical Association
12 noon-2:00 p.m.
Luncheon Meeting
Holiday Inn — Ventnor Rooms A and B

National Academy of Science Writers
12 noon-2:00 p.m.
Luncheon Meeting
Dennis Hotel — Ozone Room

Frederick A. Collier Surgical Society
12 noon-4:00 p.m.
Luncheon Meeting
Dennis Hotel — Card Room

Study Group on Liver Injuries of Vietnam Veterans
12:30-3:00 p.m.
Luncheon Meeting
Holiday Inn — Margate B

James IV Association of Surgeons, Inc.
4:00-7:00 p.m.
Reception and Meeting
Shelburne Hotel — Coral Reef Room

Duke Medical Alumni Association
5:00-7:00 p.m.
Reception
Claridge Hotel — Park Lounge

American Association for Thoracic Surgery
5:00-10:00 p.m.
Dinner Meeting
Holiday Inn — Margate B

The Clarence Dennis Society
5:00-7:00 p.m.
Annual Meeting
Hackney's Restaurant — Harry Hackney Room

Maryland Chapter of ACS
5:00-7:00 p.m.
Reception
Marlborough-Blenheim — Room 46

Deknatel
5:00-8:00 p.m.
Reception
Claridge Hotel — Solarium

Upstate Medical Center
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Reception
Howard Johnson — Cork Room

United States Army Institute of Surgical Research
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Reception
Holiday Inn — Wildwood Room

Roy D. McClure Surgical Society
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Reception
Holiday Inn — Ventnor A

Akron City Hospital
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Reunion
Holiday Inn — Suite 1002

Jefferson Medical College Alumni
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Reception
Holiday Inn — Cape May Room

Case Western Reserve University
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Reception
Claridge Hotel — West Room

University of Rochester School of Medicine Alumni
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Reception
Holiday Inn — Ballroom A

University of Pennsylvania Medical Alumni
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Reception
Dennis Hotel — St. Denis Room

Brooklyn-Long Island Chapter of ACS
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Reception
Holiday Inn — Ballroom C

Geisinger Medical Center Alumni
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Reception
Traymore Hotel — Mandarin Room

John Hopkins University Surgical Alumni
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Cocktail Party
Traymore Hotel — Belvedere Room

Massachusetts General Hospital Surgical Service
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Reception
Shelburne Hotel — Kerry Hall

Tulane Medical Alumni
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Reception
Dennis Hotel — Solarium

Shumacker Surgical Society
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Reception
Shelburne Hotel — Brady Room

Vanderbilt Medical Alumni
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Reception
Traymore Hotel — Skyline Terrace

Washington University Medical Center Alumni Association
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Reception
Shelburne Hotel — Kerry Hall

Alumni of the Cancer Hospitals: National Cancer Institute, Ellis Fischel State Cancer Hospital, M. D. Anderson Hospital, Memorial Hospital and Roswell Park Memorial Institute
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Reception
Dennis Hotel — Borton Hall

Albany Medical Center Hospital
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Reception
Claridge Hotel — Board Room

Cornell University Medical College Alumni Association
6:00-10:00 p.m.
Reception and Dinner
Traymore Hotel — Club Room

The Roosevelt Surgical Service
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Cocktail Party
Chalfonte-Haddon Hall

Boston University School of Medicine
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Cocktail Party
Traymore Hotel — Rose Room

Zollinger Club
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Reception
Dennis Hotel — Crystal Room

New Jersey Chapter of ACS
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Reception
Dennis Hotel — Garden Lounge

Flying Physician's Association
6:30 to 10:00 p.m.
Reception and Dinner
Edwardian Lounge and Rose Room North
Marlborough-Blenheim Hotel

University of Virginia School of Medicine Alumni
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Reception
Shelburne Hotel — Suite 321/323

New York Hospital House Staff: To honor "Pep" Wade
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Reception
Holiday Inn — Room 1007

Bronx Chapter of ACS
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Reception
Shelburne Hotel — Mirror Room

University of Virginia Medical Alumni
6:30-7:30 p.m.
Reception
Shelburne Hotel — Suite 921/923

Owen H. Wangenstein Surgical Educational Foundation
6:30-10:00 p.m.
Reception and Dinner
Shelburne Hotel — East Ballroom

Raydin/Rhoads Surgical Society
6:30-10:00 p.m.
Reception and Dinner
Dennis Hotel — Ozone Room

Second Auxiliary Surgical Group
6:30-10:00 p.m.
Annual Banquet
Claridge Hotel — East Room

Christian Medical Society
7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Dinner
Smithville Inn, Smithville, N. J.

Shumacker Surgical Society
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Dinner
Smithville Inn, Smithville, N. J.

State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center, Alumni Association
7:00-10:00 p.m.
Dinner and Cocktails
Hackney's Restaurant

Society of Air Force Clinical Surgeons
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Reception
Holiday Inn — Ventnor B

To Honor Doctor George Higgins
7:00-10:00 p.m.
Reception and Dinner
Chalfonte-Haddon Hall — Tower Room

Deryl Hart Society
8:00-10:00 p.m.
Dinner Meeting
Claridge Hotel — Windsor Room

Hanlon Surgical Society
8:15-10:30 p.m.
Reception and Dinner
Holiday Inn — Ballroom B

And tomorrow morning's

North American Chapter — International Society of Surgeons
7:00-8:30 a.m.
Breakfast Meeting
Shelburne Hotel — Brady Room

Michael Reese Alumni Association
12 noon-2 p.m.
Luncheon
Dennis Hotel — Ozone Room

Roswell Park Surgical Society
12 noon-2:00 pm.
Luncheon
Traymore Hotel — Rose Room

Oklahoma Chapter of ACS
8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Informal Breakfast
Shelburne — Main Dining Room